

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A hermetically sealed housing comprising:
opposing, substantially planar first and second housing members coupled together to
form a hermetically sealed interior environment;
an internally mounted non-rotatable shaft having a medial portion which supports an
article rotatable within the interior environment, a proximal end internally
supported by the first housing member, and a distal end opposite the
proximal end; and
means for supporting the distal end of the shaft within the interior environment.
2. (original) The housing of claim 1, wherein the means for supporting comprises an
exterior surface on the distal end of the shaft and an interior recess which extends into the
second housing member a distance less than a full thickness of the second housing member,
wherein the exterior surface is guided into and retained by the recess when the second
housing member is brought into alignment with the first housing member.
3. (original) The housing of claim 2, wherein the exterior surface is tapered.
4. (original) The housing of claim 2, wherein the means for supporting induces
localized bowing of the second housing member away from the shaft.

5. (original) The housing of claim 2, wherein the means for supporting further comprises a layer of compliant material disposed within the recess, wherein the exterior surface compressingly engages the layer of compliant material.

6. (original) The housing of claim 1, wherein the means for supporting comprises a recess which extends into the distal end of the shaft and a pin affixed to and which projects away from the second housing member, wherein the pin is guided into and retained by the recess when the second housing member is brought into alignment with the first housing member.

7. (original) The housing of claim 6, wherein the means for supporting further comprises a layer of compliant material disposed within the recess, wherein the pin compressingly engages the layer of compliant material.

8. (original) The housing of claim 1 characterized as a housing for a data storage device.

9. (original) The housing of claim 8, wherein the rotatable article comprises a rotary actuator which supports a data transducing head adjacent a data storage medium.

10. (original) The housing of claim 8, wherein the rotatable article comprises a data storage medium.

11. (currently amended) A housing comprising:

a substantially planar first housing member formed from a first material and having

opposing interior and exterior surfaces and a thickness therebetween;

a substantially planar second housing member formed from a second material and

having opposing interior and exterior surfaces and a thickness therebetween,

the second housing member coupled to the first housing member with the

respective interior surfaces thereof in a facing relationship to form a

hermetically sealed interior environment;

a rotatable article disposed within the interior environment; and

an internally mounted non-rotatable shaft having an axis about which the rotatable

article rotates, a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end supported

by the interior surface of the first housing member so that a continuous layer

of the first material extends between the proximal end and the exterior

surface of the first housing member along said axis, and the distal end

supported by the interior surface of the second housing member so that a

continuous layer of the second material extends between the distal end and

the exterior surface of the second housing member along said axis.

12. (original) The housing of claim 11, wherein the first and second materials comprise a common material.

13. (original) The housing of claim 11, wherein the first and second materials comprise metal.

14. (original) The housing of claim 11, wherein at least a selected one of the proximal and distal ends is inserted into a recess in a corresponding one of the first and second housing members.

15. (original) The housing of claim 14, wherein the at least a selected one of the proximal and distal ends comprises a tapered surface.

16. (original) The housing of claim 11, wherein localized bowing is induced in the second housing member in a direction away from the shaft.

17. (original) The housing of claim 11, wherein at least a selected one of the proximal and distal ends comprises a recess into which a pin is recessed, said pin projecting from the interior surface of a corresponding one of the first and second housing members.

18. (original) The housing of claim 11, further comprising a layer of compliant material disposed between a selected one of the proximal and distal ends and the corresponding interior surface of the first and second housing members.

19. (original) The housing of claim 11, wherein the housing is characterized as a housing of a data storage device, and wherein the rotatable article comprises a spindle motor which supports at least one rotatable recording disc.

20. (original) The housing of claim 11, wherein the housing is characterized as a housing of a data storage device, and wherein the rotatable article comprises a rotary actuator which supports a data transducing head or a spindle motor which supports a data recording medium.

21. (new) The housing of claim 1, wherein the interior environment retains an inert gas atmosphere.

22. (new) The housing of claim 1, wherein said atmosphere comprises helium.

23. (new) The housing of claim 1, wherein the proximal end is press-fit into a corresponding recess in the first housing member.

24. (new) The housing of claim 11, wherein the interior environment retains an inert gas atmosphere.

24. (new) The housing of claim 11, wherein said atmosphere comprises helium.

26. (new) The housing of claim 11, wherein the proximal end is press-fit into a corresponding recess in the first housing member.